



November 23, 2004

Casey Grant, Secretary
NFPA Standards Council
NFPA
1 Batterymarch Park
Quincy, MA 02269

Dear Mr. Grant,

On behalf of the InterAgency Board for Equipment Standardization (IAB), I am requesting that the NFPA address the issue of a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) to NFPA 1981, *The Standard on Open-circuit Self-contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire and Emergency Services* (2002 edition), to make interoperability of SCBA cylinders a requirement of the standard.

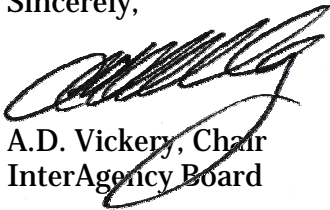
The InterAgency Board views this amendment as meeting the test of an emergency nature. This is due to the continuing threat of terrorism to our Country. An attack such as occurred in New York and the Pentagon graphically illustrates the multi-disciplinary requirements for interoperability. The need for SCBA air bottle interoperability is overdue to the sustainment of field operations in contaminated atmospheres.

We are requesting the Technical Committee make this a priority issue. The IAB understands there are technical and equipment issues that need to be addressed to make interoperability a reality. We also understand that some manufacturers may be reluctant to engage.

From a personal standpoint, subsurface divers currently have interoperability in cylinders without detrimental consequences. We are looking toward those of us on the surface having the same interoperability.

The IAB thanks the NFPA for its support and leadership in the field of responder safety.

Sincerely,



A.D. Vickery, Chair
InterAgency Board

ADV:tmc